


Planning and Development Department Update

DATE: July 15, 2011
TO: Mayor Setti D. Warren
FROM: Candace Havens, Director of Planning and Development 
RE: Friday Report
CC: Board of Aldermen
 Robert Rooney, Chief Operating Officer

This weekly report is intended to keep you informed of current development proposals and other noteworthy planning and development activities as follows:

Monday 7/18/11	
Tuesday 7/19/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning and Development Board, 6:30 p.m., Room 202 Land Use Committee-Working Session, 7:45 p.m., Room 222
Wednesday 7/20/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Urban Design Commission, 7:00 p.m., Room 203 Massachusetts Department of Transportation – Highway Division, Public Hearing, 7:00 p.m., Newton Lower Falls Community Center, 545 Grove Street Community Preservation Committee, Cancelled
Thursday 7/21/11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation Commission, Management Plan, 7:00 p.m., Room 209 Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission, 7:30 p.m., Room 202 Newton – Brookline – Watertown-Waltham Homelessness Consortium, Cancelled

- Announcing the “Commercial Real Estate Connection”:** Are you a business owner looking to rent retail, office, R&D, or industrial space in Newton? Are you a property owner or broker with a space in Newton that is seeking a tenant? Are you someone who shops or works in Newton’s village centers or commercial corridors and wonders what the City can do to fill vacant storefronts? We are pleased to announce the “Commercial Real Estate Connection.” This service, which provides listings of commercial vacancies that will be updated frequently, is similar to the former “Clearinghouse” that was discontinued and to “site-finder” websites employed by other nearby cities. This is one part of a recent overhaul of the City’s Economic Development website:

www.newtonma.gov/business. We also aim to make it easier for those who are unfamiliar with Newton to learn about the City’s geographic and demographic advantages, understand our unique landscape of village centers and commercial corridors, and know who to call for assistance in City Hall. **Contact Amanda Stout at 617.796.1127 or astout@newtonma.gov.**



- Planning & Development Board:** The Planning and Development Board will hold a special meeting on **Tuesday, July 19th** at 6:30 p.m. in Room 202 to consider a request to purchase and hold an affordable housing unit for resale through the Newton Community Development Authority (NCDA). A public hearing will also be held to consider the request to transfer \$228,934 in CDBG funds from the FY11 Housing Program Fund to the FY11 Housing Program Rehabilitation Fund, if needed, to enable NCDA to purchase and hold an affordable housing unit for resale. **Contact Kathleen Cahill at 617.796.1125 or kcahill@newtonma.gov.**
- Land Use Committee-Working Session:** The Committee will meet on **Tuesday, July 19th** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 222. The agenda includes the following petitions: **#7-11**, Charles River Country Club, Inc., petition to extend a nonconforming use to create a short game practice area for its members and guests in a currently unimproved portion of an existing golf course (no buildings or structures are involved) at **483 Dedham Street#**; **#80-11**, Errol Norwitz, petition to increase the floor area ratio from .4196 to .468 where .42 is allowed at **68 Day Street**; **#161-11 (1)(2)(3)&(4)**, W/S Development Associates LLC and Chestnut Hill Shopping Center LLC request for a change of zone from Business 1 and Public Use to Business 4, for special permit/site

plan approval and to extend a nonconforming use/structure to replace an existing 1-story retail portion of a building at **33 Boylston Street** and for a special permit/site plan approval for improvements to sidewalks and to Frontage Road/Carriage Way landscaping, parking layout, lighting and access for the Frontage Road/Carriage Way, a portion of Boylston Street along the frontage of the Chestnut Hill Shopping Center, Ward 7, Chestnut Hill. **Contact Alexandra Ananth at 617.796.1121 or aananth@newtonma.gov.**

- **Urban Design Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Wednesday, July 20th** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 203. The agenda includes the review of the following applications: Installation of a wall sign for Zoots Cleaners at **739 Beacon Street**; Installation of an awning sign for Dunkin Donuts at **1148 Beacon Street**; Installation of an awning sign for Studio 291 Salon at **138 Adams Street**; and Approval of a sign package for Newton Centre Gulf at **732 Beacon Street**. **Contact Derek Valentine at 617.796.1123 or dvalentine@newtonma.gov.**
- **MassDOT-Highway Division Public Hearing – Riverside Pedestrian Park Bridge:** The MassDOT-Highway Division will be holding a Public Hearing on **Wednesday, July 20th** at 7:00 p.m. at the Newton Lower Falls Community Center located at 545 Grove Street. The purpose of the meeting is to discuss the proposed Rehabilitation of the Riverside Pedestrian Park Bridge (Bridge No. N-12-080=W-29-064) in Newton and Weston. The proposed project consists of the rehabilitation of the existing bridge as well as reconstructing the west abutment and wing walls, new steel bearing and timber deck and mesh panel railings on the superstructure and cleaning and painting of the superstructure. There will also be landscape and stormwater improvements. A project handout will be available on the MassDOT website <http://www.massdot.state.ma.us/Highway/>. This item will also be discussed at the Conservation Commission meeting on July 28th. **Contact Anne Phelps at 617.796.1134 or aphelps@newtonma.gov.**
- **Conservation Commission Special Meeting:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday July 21st** at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209, with or without a quorum, for ongoing discussion of its draft **Management Plan** for Conservation Areas. Issues to be discussed include: Invasive species; Poison Ivy; Restricted activities; Structures; Signage; Naming; Conservation Restriction protection; Friends groups; Stewardship monitoring. **Contact Anne Phelps at 617.796.1134 or aphelps@newtonma.gov.**
- **Chestnut Hill Historic District Commission:** The Commission will meet on **Thursday, July 21st** at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202. Items on the agenda include: **40 Old Orchard Road**, request to replace windows; **100 Suffolk Road**, request to remove addition and change siding, windows, and roof of gardener's cottage; **399 Hammond Street**, request to replace garage doors and entry door; replace two windows; and add four rear windows to garage; and review of meeting minutes. **Contact Brian Lever at 617.796.1129 or blever@newtonma.gov.**
- **The Newton Zoning Reform Group:** The Group will hold a public workshop on **Wednesday, July 27th** at 7:00 p.m. in the War Memorial Hall, City Hall. They will be presenting their work to date, discuss the process and substance of Zoning Ordinance reform in Newton, and solicit input and ideas from the public. The Zoning Reform Group is studying the current Ordinance to identify parts in need of updating or clarification. All are welcome to attend and join the conversation. **Contact Seth Zeren at 617.796.1145 or szeren@newtonma.gov.**
- **Community Preservation Committee – Pre-proposal Requirement, Next Funding Deadline & Special Community Outreach:** Newton's CPC now requires submission of pre-proposals before it will accept full proposals. The Committee accepts & discusses pre-proposals at any of its regular, monthly public meetings. **The last possible date to submit a pre-proposal for the next funding round will be July 1, 2012 – a year from now – but the earlier you submit your pre-proposal, the better.** An early pre-proposal lets you get constructive feedback from the CPC before you invest time in a full proposal, and lets the CPC consider reserving future funds for your project. If your project is strongly time-sensitive, you may also use your pre-proposal to ask the Committee if they would accept a full proposal "off-cycle," before (or after) the next regular funding deadline.

2011-2012 is also the 10th anniversary of the Community Preservation Act in Newton. The CPC is planning special neighborhood events to recognize what the CPA has already helped Newton accomplish and to hear residents' thoughts about future priorities and projects. **For more information about neighborhood events or to submit a pre-proposal, please contact Alice E. Ingerson, Community Preservation Program Manager, www.newtonma.gov/cpa, 617.796.1144 or aingerson@newtonma.gov.**